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Agricultural Education

FOREWORD.

The Purpose of the Bulletin—By means of Bulletins it is hoped to inform teachers, school trustees and others interested in education, concerning the progress that is being made in our own midst and elsewhere, especially in the rural schools.

Help Asked—The co-operation of teachers and others is asked for in making known matters deserving of promoting further. Contributions, photographs and suggestions are solicited regarding (1) new lines of school work that have been found of value, (2) new methods of teaching, (3) experiences with Children's School Clubs, (4) experiments in School Gardening, (5) plans for conducting School Fairs, (6) schemes for improving the school property, decorating the interior of the school, securing playground equipment, arousing public interest in the work of the school, or making the school a social centre. Address communications to the *Director of Elementary Agricultural Education, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.*

Other Publications for Promoting Agriculture in the Schools—In the work of promoting agricultural education other publications are sent out by the Department of Education free to all the schools.

Charts—Two charts (Nos. I and II) giving lessons in agriculture were issued during 1912 and these will be followed from time to time by others; through them any teacher will find a means of giving instruction in the subject.

Circulars—During 1912, six Circulars (Nos. 13, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D, 13E), were issued and sent to all the schools; these will be followed from time to time by Bulletins. The first of these Circulars contained the regulations governing the teaching of agriculture, and the others dealt with gardening methods, school experiments, teachers' courses, etc.

Care of Publications Desirable—Teachers are requested to see that copies of all these publications are kept in the school for their own and their successor's use. If the first numbers have been lost and cannot be found, extra copies will be sent on request. If the teacher finds that his school is not receiving the publications regularly, this is owing to an incorrect address, and application should be made to have the correct address for the school substituted.

Duplicate Copies and Their Use—Whenever duplicate copies are sent to the teacher, the extra copy should be circulated amongst the parents and trustees in order to awaken and broaden public interest in the work of our schools.

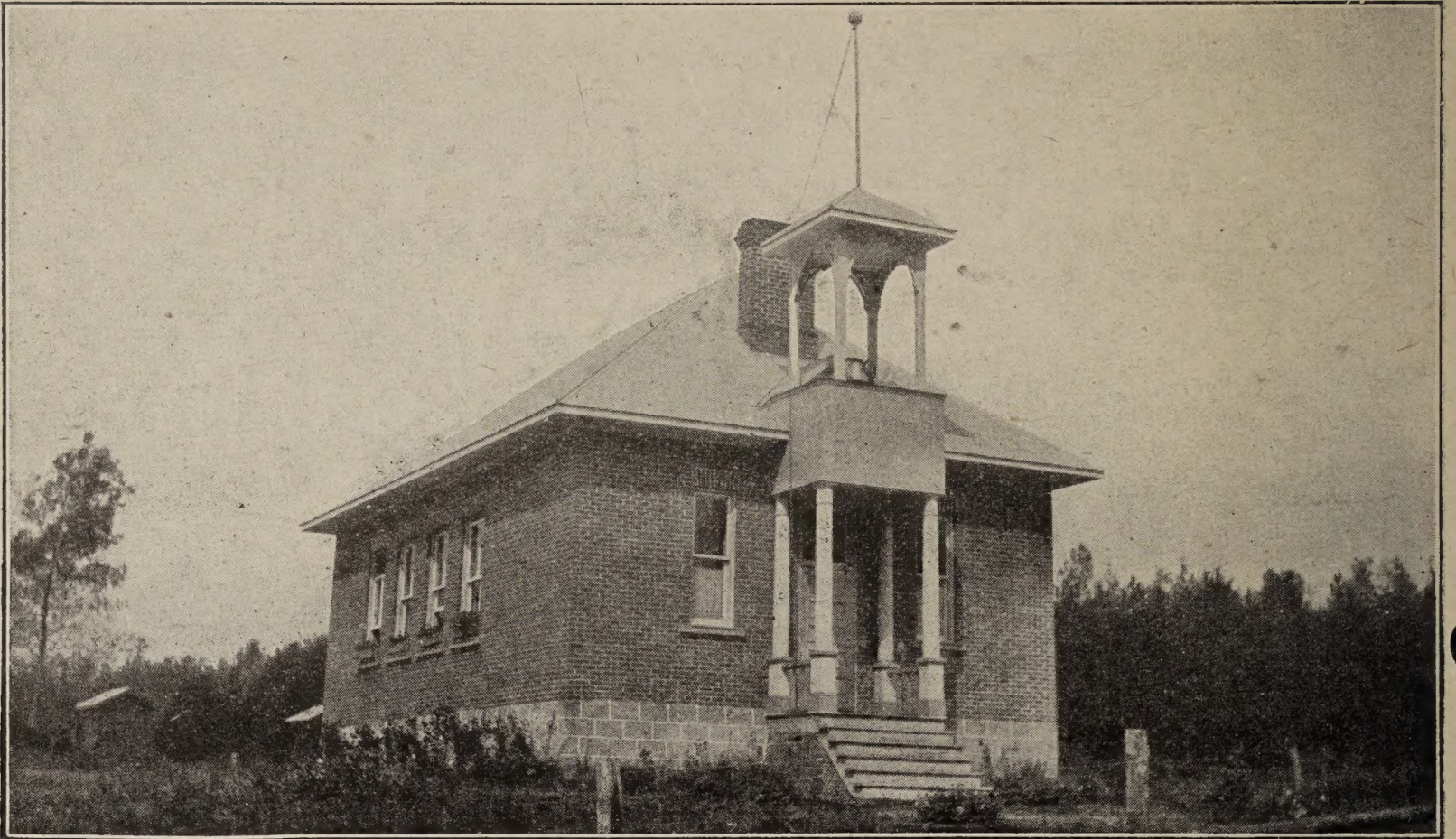
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TORONTO:

Printed and Published by L. K. CAMERON, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1913.

NOTE.—One copy is for the teacher and should be retained in the school. The other copy is for use in the School Section. PLEASE KEEP IT IN CIRCULATION.

AGRICULTURE IN THE SCHOOLS



SCHOOL IN S. S. No. 8 WILBERFORCE TP., RENFREW CO.
August Sack, Esq., Secretary; Miss Mabel V. Günter, Teacher. Note the window boxes, flower borders and school bell.

THE STORY OF AN ONTARIO SCHOOL GARDEN.

The following account of the work done at the school in S. S. No. 8, Wilberforce, Renfrew County, will prove of interest to teachers and trustees who are considering the commencement of similar lines of work this year. Miss Günter's letters show very clearly how much good comes to a school and the education of the children therein, through the hearty and active co-operation of trustees, parents and teacher. Where all work together the difficulties of a new undertaking are easily met. The letters are addressed to the Director of Elementary Agricultural Education.

1st LETTER

Germanicus P.O., May 10, 1912.

Dear Sir:—

Under the co-operation of the Trustees, we desire to apply for the grant for teaching Agriculture as per Circular 13, 1912. Our school is No. 8 Wilberforce.

On account of the impossibility of having our grounds ready before to-day—the ground and school are new—we could not very well apply earlier.

Trusting we may be in time, I am,

Yours respectfully,

Isabel V. Günter, Teacher.

August Sack, Sec.-Treas.



THE SCHOOL GARDEN.

Note the bush in the background of the garden; such surroundings are now rare in the older settled parts of the province.

2nd LETTER

Germanicus P.O., May 10, 1912.

Dear Sir:—

Although desperately tired, I must write to thank you for forwarding everything ordered. The forest tree seedlings are not here yet but probably will be in a day or so.

Must also tell you of our success so far. I personally appealed to the rate-payers and, with the exception of one who is ill, every man appeared at the school by nine o'clock this morning—twenty-five in all. Enthusiastic! Well I should say they all are! They think the idea a splendid one. We planted quite a few cedars and spruce trees; the maples are so far budded out that they advised leaving them until the fall. Then we planted a lot of golden glow, hollyhocks and lilacs around the school. These the children brought. We made a good-sized garden and five good-sized flower beds besides. Then we planted flowers in our seven window boxes. I let the children do the sowing, after having told them how to do it. Of course I superintended the work somewhat.

The men did all the heavy work. I forgot to mention that each man brought a big load of good earth or well-rotted manure. We have enough left to use for the maples and also to fix up the garden and beds in the fall. This they piled in a back corner and covered it up. They have all promised to come back in the fall to do the maple tree planting and plowing.

I have been teaching agriculture and nature study all year, and all along the children have enjoyed it. Our tools for this year are loaned for the season.

I have applied for the grant and hope we may get it. Our library is deficient in works on agriculture or nature study, and, I know if we get the grant

our trustees will get me the books and plenty of tools for next year's work.

Am I too late in applying for the summer course in Nature Study? I did not know until the last few days that I could possibly attend. I would like to go and our Inspector also would like me to go. Am enclosing application form. If not too late, please notify me and I will immediately forward fee.

Yours respectfully,

Isabel V. Günter.

3rd LETTER

Germanicus P.O., Nov. 28, 1912.

Dear Sir:—

Enclosed you will please find report you sent me some time ago to fill out, and also a few photos I took of my school and garden work this year.

I have certainly enjoyed the work in Agriculture, and I am positively certain the children did. I have noticed some improvement in them, but our Inspector seems to think it greater than I thought it. Our autumn work hasn't covered as much ground as I had hoped because the attendance was poor on account of the disagreeable weather and the holding of German classes on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. However, I expect that from now on we will have regular attendance.

My pupils and their parents are still very enthusiastic. The pupils are already planning for next year. One big improvement I have noticed is that they read a great deal more than formerly. The library is being well patronized. We have not a very good assortment of books, but what we have are being read. On December 13th we are having a concert in aid of our library. In October we purchased four books, viz.: King's "Soil," Kern's "Among Country Schools," James' "Agriculture," and Hodge's "Nature Study and Life." The fourth class have taken great interest in these.

Taken on the whole, I am very glad I commenced the school garden and the teaching of Agriculture. The work has been a great pleasure to us all. I find I have gotten closer to my pupils and they have greater confidence in me.

Our Inspector wished me to give a paper on "School Gardens" and my experience at our Teachers' Institute in October. I did this and I think there will be a number of gardens started next year. Most teachers seemed to dread the start, but since they heard I had no difficulty with trustees and parents they too will try.

Thanking you for your help in this year's work, and wishing you every success for 1913.

Respectfully yours,

Isabel V. Günter.